

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 AGRE-00 OES-07  
PRS-01 /060 W

-----118538 241440Z /43

R 241141Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3915  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 0129

AID/W FOR SHEAR; DAKAR FOR SCHOONOVER FROM CROSBY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, GV  
SUBJECT: SCHOONOVER VISIT TO GUINEA; AGRICULTURAL PROJECT  
675-0201

REF: (A) 77 CONAKRY 2425, (B) CONAKRY 08, (C) CONAKRY 01

SUMMARY: SCHOONOVER VISIT TO GUINEA JANUARY 18-19  
WAS FULL AND FRUITFUL. FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO VISIT  
TO FOULAYA, ONE OF THREE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT SITES,  
AND SECOND DAY TO CALLS ON KEY GOG MINISTERS, CAPPED  
BY LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. ALL GOG OFFICIALS  
EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MOVING AHEAD WITH AGRICUL-  
TURAL PROJECT PREPARATIONS IMMEDIATELY; IF CONSTRUCTION  
CANNOT COMMENCE BY OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1978, AN ENTIRE  
YEAR WILL BE LOST. SCHOONOVER AND AMBASSADOR ASSURED  
GOG OF US INTEREST IN PROJECT AND DETERMINATION TO  
ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. VISIT OF REGIONAL AID DIRECTOR NORMAN SCHOONOVER  
JANUARY 18-19 WAS TIGHTLY PROGRAMMED AND EXTREMELY  
USEFUL. ON ARRIVAL, SCHOONOVER WAS TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR  
AND TWO GOG OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR AID AGRICULTURAL  
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PROJECT AND FOR RELATIONS WITH USG TO KINDIA AND FOULAYA.  
THEY WERE MET BY KINDIA MINISTER FOR RURAD DEVELOPMENT  
DOUMBOUYA, SHOWN AROUND THE INSTITUTE OF FRUIT  
RESEABCH BY DIRECTOR GENERAL MASARE NONGO AND GIVEN  
ON-SITE BRIEFING OF HOW USAID AGRICULTURAL PROJECT  
WOULD TRANSFORM EXISTING RUDIMENTARY FACILITIES TO  
ESTABLISH MODERN, ACROSS-THE-BOARD AGRICULTURAL

RESEARCH CAPABILITY. NONGO, A DAVIS TRAINEE, EMPHASIZED NEED TO GET ON WITH PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SO SEVEN PARTICIPANTS NOW TRAINING IN US WILL BE ABLE TO COMMENCE WORK IN THE INSTITUTE ON THEIR RETURN TO GUINEA.

2. JANUARY 19 WAS DEVOTED TO MEETINGS WITH GOG OFFICIALS IN CONAKRY.

A. MOUSSA DIAKITE, SENIOR POLITBUREAU MEMBER AND MINISTER OF DOMAIN FOR INTERIOR, SECURITY AND JUSTICE, SPOKE AT LENGTH OF SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS ACROSS NORTHERN AND EASTERN GUINEA AND NEED FOR EMERGENCY PL-480 ASSISTANCE. HE EMPHASIZED CENTRAL IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, OBSERVED THAT US AGRICULTURAL PROJECT HAD THUS FAR MOVED AT SLUGGISH PACE, AND URGED IT BE ACCELERATE AND ADVANCED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED.

B. N'FAMARA KEITA, MINISTER OF DOMAIN FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON NEED FOR COMPLETION OF PRELIMINARY PROJECT ARRANGEMENTS SO WORK CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS HEAVY RAINS END IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER. THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME, PROVIDING THE MATTER IS GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION, BUT HE WARNED THAT IF WORK CANNOT BE BEGUN SOON AFTER THE RAINS

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END, THE PROJECT WILL BE DELAYED AN ENTIRE YEAR, AS CONSTRUCTION CANNOT BE BEGUN DURING THE RAINY SEASON, AND THE SCHEDULE WILL SLIP TO FALL 1979. THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS; PARTICIPANTS CURRENTLY TRAINING IN THE US WOULD RETURN LONG BEFORE THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED, BE FRUSTRATED AND LOSE THE SHARPNESS OF THEIR EXPERTISE AND ENTHUSIASM, AND THE PROJECT WOULD SUFFER. KEITA ALSO ASKED ABOUT HIS TEN-POINT LIST OF AGRICULTURE-RELATED PROJECT SUGGESTIONS (REF B). AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM WASHINGTON AGENCIES WERE EXAMINING PROPOSALS AND PROMISED TO GET BACK TO HIM ON THIS SOON. KEITA SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ONE OR TWO GROUPS OF TEN LIVESTOCK SPECIALISTS COULD BE SENT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS' PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ON US RANCHES. SCHOONOVER SAID THIS WOULD BE LOOKED INTO; PROBLEM OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY WAS RAISED, AND GUINEANS SUGGESTED USIS ENGLISH PROGRAM MIGHT HELP IN THAT.

C. SORY KEITA, CHEF DE CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF THE DOMAIN OF EDUCATION, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AND THE NEED TO GET ON WITH THE AID PROJECT.

D. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE INVITED SCHOONOVER AND AMBASSADOR TO LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI AND MINISTERS MOUSSA DIAKITE, ABDOULAYE TOURE, SAIFOULAYE DIALLO, N'FALY SANGARE, AND SORIBA TOURE. CONVERSATION WAS GENERAL, LED BY PRESIDENT, AND DEALT WITH DROUGHT AND OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ATTAINMENT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE FOR GUINEAN PEOPLE. ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL AND PROBLEMS WERE NOT BROACHED IN TERMS OF US ASSISTANCE; IT WAS AN ABLY-PITCHED SOFT SELL.

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3. AT APPROPRIATE TIMES IN ABOVE MEETINGS SCHOONOVER AND AMBASSADOR ASSURED GOG OFFICIALS OF CONTINUED USG ENTHUSIASM FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT AND OF THEIR PERSONAL INTENTION TO ACCELERATE ITS EXECUTION. RE THE DROUGHT, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER GENERAL REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED AND EMPHASIZED NEED FOR DETAILS OF LOCATION AND PRECISE NATURE AND EXTENT OF DROUGHT LOSSES IF USG IS TO BE ABLE TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE. SCHOONOVER EFFECTIVELY REINFORCED THIS POINT, AND ALSO URGED GOG TO SEEK AID FROM WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. GOG OFFICIALS ASSURED US DATA WOULD BE FORTHCOMING MOMENTARLY.

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 AGRE-00 OES-07  
PRS-01 /060 W  
-----118595 241439Z /43  
R 241141Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3916  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 0129

AID/W FOR SHEAR; DAKAR FOR SCHOONOVER FROM CROSBY

4. COMMENT: SCHOONOVER VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL:

A. IT ESTABLISHED PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN HIM AND KEY GOG OFFICIALS, AND PROVIDED SCHOONOVER AND AMBASADOR THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT FOULAYA PROJECT SITE.

B. IT PROVIDED VISIBLE SIGN AND REASSURANCE OF ACTIVE US INTEREST IN PROJECT DESPITE CURRENT LACK OF AMERICAN PROJECT MANAGER IN GUINEA.

C. IT CONFIRMED SERIOUSNESS OF GOG CONCERN OVER AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND STRONG INTEREST AT ALL LEVELS OF GOG IN US PROJECT AND IMPATIENCE TO SEE IT GET UNDERWAY WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

D. IT MADE CLEAR WHY TIMING IS CRUCIAL AT THIS STAGE.

E. IT PROVIDED EMBASSY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS WITH SCHOONOVER AND ESTABLISH BASIS FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH HIM AND HIS OFFICE. END COMMENT.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. CLEARLY THE MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT REQUIREMENT IS QUICK ACTION TO AVOID LOSS OF AN ENTIRE YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT TO ENSURE EARLY PRODUCTION OF "PRELIMINARY FINAL" ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, INVITATION OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SO WORK CAN BEGIN IN FALL 1978.

B. LACK OF AMERICAN PROJECT MANAGER PUTS EMBASSY AT DISADVANTAGE THAT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY SERIOUS WITH PASSAGE OF TIME. WOULD APPRECIATE SPECIAL AID/W EFFORTS TO LOCATE CAPABLE CANDIDATE ASAP.

C. PROJECT RETIONALE REQUIRES THAT CONSTRUCTION AT ALL THREE SITES BE CONTRACTED FOR AND UNDERTAKEN AT THE SAME TIME. SINCERELY HOPE AID/W WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FULL \$4.8 MILLION TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. CROSBY

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## Message Attributes

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